

# Fall 2023 Welcome!

Happy Fall 2023 Semester, Lanzamiento!

I wanted to take a minute to share two student stories from Welcome Day (last Saturday) which I hope will reaffirm your work in the way it did mine. Both students have had Lanzamiento as a part of their academic journey, have used Lanzamiento services, and are interested in utilizing more of the programs offerings.

The first student approached me at the Lanzamiento table and said “I think I know you, you helped me complete a scholarship application when I graduated from HEP.” (For those of you who don’t know – HEP (High School Equivalency Program) is the first federal grant SRJC received in 2012 to help seasonal agriculture workers and their families complete their High School Equivalency (AKA GED) and matriculate into college. I have been the director of the program since we started it 2012.) Maria completed her HSE in Dec 2018 and started on her AA degree – this spring she graduated with 3 AA degrees and is finish up this year before transferring to SSU. In talking with her – she told me she had been in some Lanzamiento sections and had appreciated the support she received in those classes. This fall – her 2 sons will be in credit classes at SRJC and her husband is starting his GED journey. HEP and Lanzamiento have helped this family move away from seasonal work into fulltime employment.

The second student told me she was enrolled in a Lanzamiento section this fall – and wanted to know what that meant. Would they have different materials? Extra transfer help? Tutoring? How was being in a Lanzamiento class going to help her? When I explained all the resources faculty have available to assist them in their Lanzamiento section – she was even more excited to be a part of the program. The Lanzamiento Transfer Counselor, Margarita was able to set up an appointment with her and connected her to the transfer services. As a transfer student, she was not sure which CSU she wanted to attend – so we let her know about the College tours Lanzamiento is providing again this year.



I share these as examples of the work Lanzamiento has accomplished and to encourage you to use more of the services Lanzamiento has to offer in your class. The grant was written with an emphasis on embedded services to ease the student journey. It has been hit or miss on use of the services – but I want to encourage all of you to reach out to one or more of the following to bring them or their resources into your class this fall. All of these services are being funded by the Lanzamiento grant for the Lanzamiento courses to access.

Below I am highlighting 3 of our supported services for you to check into. Invite them to be your success partner in your classroom!

**Transfer Counselor** – Margarita Gonzalez- Jordan  
Samantha Montellanos – Diaz

[mgonzalezjordan@santarosa.edu](mailto:mgonzalezjordan@santarosa.edu)  
[smontellanosdiaz@santarosa.edu](mailto:smontellanosdiaz@santarosa.edu)

Class presentation on the transfer process and campus tours. Transfer Boot Camp, workshops to assist in the application process

**Financial Aid** Drina Ochoa

[aocchoa@santarosa.edu](mailto:aocchoa@santarosa.edu)

Class presentations or links to Fin Aid workshops, Cash for College workshops, scholarship information.

**Library Support**

Loretta Esparza

[lesparza@santarosa.edu](mailto:lesparza@santarosa.edu)

Loretta can assist with Lib Guides, finding course support materials, has a curated HSI Lib Guide, can do class presentations on using the library, workshops.

Thank you all for the work you do on behalf of our students – and thank you for participation in Lanzamiento this semester!

My best,  
Cathy

Catherine Prince,  
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Program Director, HEP  
Program Director Lanzamiento

